IN SENATE.

Tuesday, August 27, 1850. On motion of Mr. UNDERWOOD, the Senate pro-

On motion of Mr. UNDERWOOD, the Senate proceeded to consider, as in Committee of the Whole, the bill for the relief of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company.

This bill proposes to pay to this company, as assignces of the State of Virginia, \$120,000, for money advanced by the State of Virginia to the United States for erecting public buildings in the District of Columbia.

Mr. HAMLIN. I desire to inquire if the State of Virginia horself has memorialized for the amount which this bill entered to the state of Virginia horself has memorialized for the amount which the bill entered to the state of Virginia horself has memorialized for the amount which the bill entered to the state of Virginia horself has memorialized for the amount which the bill entered to the state of Virginia horself has memorial for the amount which the bill entered to the constant of the virginia horself has memorial the constant of the virginia horself has memorial to the virginia has the virginia has the virginia has been described by the vi

nerself has memorialized for the amount which this bill pro

poses to pay to this company.

Mr. MASON. If the Senator will give his attention a few moments, I will explain this matter. At the last session of the General Assembly of Virginia a law was passed transferring to the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company the claim which the State of Virginia had to the money which this bill proposes to pay. The memorial for the payment of the claim comes, therefore, from the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company the assignment of the State of Virginia. It Railroad Company, the assignees of the State of Virginia. It s, nevertheless, as I understand, a debt due by the General Government to the State of Virginia. The State of Virginia have transferred their claim to it to this railroad company, who are, therefore, the petitioners for its payment.

In the year 1790 the Congress of the United States passed

an act establishing the temporary and permanent seat of government of the United States. That law located the permanent ment seat of government within the State of Maryland, and comprised within the District of Columbia no part of the territory of Virginia. The 4th section of that law provided that, for defraying the expenses of public buildings, the President of the United States should be authorized and directed to accept grants of money. Prior to the passage of that act, how-ever, in December, 1789, the Legislature of Virginia passed resolutions declaring that if the Congress of the United States would fix the seat of government anywhere within the States of Maryland or Virginia, on the Potomac river, the State of Virginia would advance to the General Government the sum of \$120,000 in aid of the erection of the necessary public buildings. Afterwards, when in 1790 the Congress of the United States did locate the seat of government upon the Potomac river and within the State of Maryland, the State of Virginia, by the law to which I have referred, recognised her obligation to advance this money, although the District of Co-lumbia was then located altogether within the State of Ma-

The President then was authorized to accept grants of The President then was authorized to accept grants of money for defraying the expenses of the public buildings, and the State of Virginia, prior to that, had declared its willingness, if the seat of government was established on the Potomac river, to advance a sum of money. When the seat of government was thus located on the Potomac river, and the President was authorized to accept grants of money, the State of Virginia, on the 27th of December, 1790, passed a law, entitled "an act concerning an advance of money to the Government of the United States." Under that law the sum of \$120,000 was advanced to the Government of the United States.

States.

Now, the State of Virginia, considering this as an advance of money and not as a gift, has transferred the claim, as I have said, to the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company, have said, to the Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company, which company petitions for its payment. I presume the only question before the Senate can be, was this a loan in the form of an advance, or was it a gift, in the form of a grant. If it was a loan, I take it for granted no one can deny the

rightfulness of the claim. It will appear, as is set forth in the report of the committee and by the journals of the House of Delegates of the State of Virginia, that on the 24th of December, 1790, a bill was introduced "for granting to the President of the United States the sum of \$120,000 for erecting public buildings on the Potomac river, agreeably to a resolution of the last Assembly." This bill passed through the usual parliamentary forms of proceeding, and on the 27th of December, 1790, it passed. But its title, on its passage, was amended by substituting for the words quoted above, the following: "An act concerning an advance of money to the President of the United States for public buildings." This act is contained in the Virginia tes at large. The terms of the enac ment are :

statutes at large. The terms of the enactment are:

"Whereas the General Assembly of Maryland have acceded to a proposition of the General Assembly of this Commonwealth, contained in their resolution of the tenth day of December, 1789, concerning an advance of money to the General Government, to be applied towards erecting public buildings at the permanent seat of the government of the United States, should the Congress deem it expedient to fix it on the bank of the Potomae; and whereas Congress have passed an act for establishing the said seat of Government on the Potomae: Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That \$120,000 shall be advanced by this Commonwealth to the General Government, payable in three equal yearly payments, and to be applied towards erecting public buildings at the permanent seat of the Government of the United States on the bank of the Potomae: And the auditor of public accounts is hereby directed to issue his warrants on the treasurer to the amount of \$120,000, payable in the manner hereinbefore directed to the order of the President of the United States."

The history, then, of this transaction shows that the State

The history, then, of this transaction shows that the State of Virginia, I presume in order to induce the Government of the United States to locate the seat of government on the Potomac river, proposed that if the General Government would locate the seat of government on the Potomac river, it would government on the Potomac river, it would advance the sum of \$120,000 towards the buildings. The General Government passed a law establishing the seat of government on the Potomac, and by the same law authorized the President of the United States to accept grants of money for the purpose of erecting public buildings. The State of Virginia, on the faith of its previous resolution, subsequent to the law of Congress, passed a law, not to grant the money to the Government of the United States, as was originally proposed, but to advance it. The terms of the law merely state that the purpose was "to advance" the money. I submit, therefore, that it is the duty of the Government of the United States to refund the money.

Mr. BRADBURY. I should like to be informed by the

Senator from Virginia whether the State of Virginia has ever, previous to this time, made any claim to have the amount of money refunded which is now asked tor by this bill?

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Never.
Mr. MASON. I am not aware that the State of Virgini ever has asked that this money should be refunded. I recolever has asked that this money should be refunded. I recol-lect that some four or five years ago, after so much of the District of Columbia as was within the limits of Virginia was retroceded, a member of the General Assembly of Virginia in-troduced a resolution declaring that this sum of money had been advanced, was due, and was subject to reclamation, and that it was then proper to be reclaimed when Virginia no longer possessed territory in the District of Columbia; but no action was taken. I will state now that, though the State of Virginia has certainly advanced the claim by assignment, yet that L-as one of her representatives, have never received any that I, as one of her representatives, have never received any instructions from the State on the subject whatever. Never theless, Virginia has recognised the claim by the assignment to this railroad company, and I, as one of her representatives, have deemed it my duty to support it, and to ask that it be

paid.

Mr. BRADBURY. To induce the location of the seat of government on the Potomac river, the Commonwealth of Virginia proposed to advance \$120,000 to the General Gov ernment. The right to reclaim it, I suppose, would depend upon the terms of the grant or advancement. Now, sir, we should inquire what the intention of the Commonwealth of should inquire what the intention of the Commonwealth of Virginia was. At the time of making this proposition, did she understand that she was merely making a losn to the General Government, or was it a bona fide proposition—not depending upon the technical terms in which the proposition was couched—but a bona fide proposition to grant that amount of money to secure the location of the seat of government upon the Potomac river? The conduct of Virginia for some sixty years, in declining to make any reclamation of the fund, would seem to show, as plainly as acts can show, that the understanding of Virginia was that she made it as a grant—as a derstanding of Virginia was that she made it as a grant—as a donation to secure this location. And, after this lapse of time, I think it not a little remarkable that this company should pre-sent an application of this kind, and expect that the applica-

tion would be granted.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I rise to state to the Senate the reasons which have influenced me to go for the passage of this bill. In looking at the legislation of Congress, and also at the legislation of Virginia, I am satisfied that the General Government received this money as a donation, and so regarded it. Accounts, I believe, were kept at the Tressury, looking upon it in the light of a donation. But now, sir, this question comes up. When you look at the legislation of Virginia, you will find that when she came to act upon the legislation of Congress, she did not conform her legislation to the language which Congress had adopted to express her ideas and her views, but she adopted language which, as shown by the Sena'or from Virginia, (Mr. Masox.) had the idea upon the face of it that she did not intend to make it a gift, but merely an advancement, thereby leaving to berself the right merety an advancement, thereby leaving to herself the right to reclaim the money, if she might deem proper so to do, at a future day. This was done at a time when the Government of the United States was poor; and it was done, as the Sena-tor from Maine (Mr. Baadburr) has said, with a view to secure the location of the seat of government on the Potomac. Now, sir, I, for one, under such circumstances, am not willing, when the Government has become rich, to hold to the money, even if it was regarded as a gift, when she claims it back again from the Government, through her as-

signee.
Sir, this is no new question with me. I recollect a case which illustrates the whole subject, which was discussed year after year in the Kentucky Legislature. The citizens in and bout Frankfort made large donations for the purpose of seuring the location of the seat of government in their town.

ome of them became unfortunare in the course of their business transactions. They became added from alluments to ess transactions. They became reduced from affluence to omparative want, and they then applied to the State of Ken-ucky to refund to them the money which they had thus advancd when the Government seemed to want it, and when they had be ability to make the advance. I believe the Government,

responding to that application, returned the money. I think it ought to be done in all cases of the kind.

Now, I by no means represent the Commonwealth of Virginia, my old mother, whom I so much honor; in the position of a beggar, or in the attitude of a pauper. Not at all. She can live without this money. Her assignees, perhaps, can get along without it. But she has thought proper, for the purpose of aiding a great public improvement—one which will redound to our advantage as well as to hers; one connecting Alexandria, near the seat of government, with her western territory—to transfer her claims to the railroad company, to be expended for these useful purposes. If it had been a gift in every sense of the word, originally, I would not hold on under such circumstances. My disposition is, now that we are able, to return, it.

I think the Government ought to have located the permanent seat of the National Government without any temptation to be derived from money. I think it should have done it upon principle—in reference to the general interests of the

to be derived from money. I think it should have done it upon principle—in reference to the general interests of the nation, considering population, centrality, and so forth. Sir, the seat of government turns out to have been very properly located where it is, whether the Government was influenced by the donations made by Virginia and Marylandor not. For, sir, the tables of population show that, although in point of centrality the proper location has been travelling West, yet, in reference to a Northern and Southern line, it is within twenty or thirty miles of the proper centre; and at the time it was located, according to population and territory it was a very proper location. Though I think that money ought not to have been received as an inducement to the Government to locate the seat of government here, yet I think we may pass this bill.

tention at the moment, that, prior to that, in 1783, the General Assembly of Virginia made a proposition to Congress to locate the seat of government at Williamsburg, then the seat of government of the State, where the public business was transacted. At that time the Government of the country lack. ed fiscal ability to command the amount necessary to erect its public buildings, and in order to induce the Government to locate the seat of government at Williamsburg, the State of Virginia offered to give up to the Government all its public buildings in Williamsburg, provided they would locate the seat of government there. The terms of the proposition were "Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That each commis-

ed for the objects for which it was appropriated?" And it does appear that the sum of \$40,999, part of this \$120,000, was all that was used by the Commissioners of Public Buildings. I submit to the Senate, therefore, that it was substantially a loan, and that the claim of Virginia, which she has assigned to this railroad company, is a just one.

After some further debate, the question was taken on or-dering the bill to be engrossed and read a third time, and re-sulted thus:

YEAS-Messrs. Atchison, Barnwell, Bell, Berrien, Butler Cass, Clay, Dawson, Dodge of Iowa, Deuglas, Downs, Foote, Houston, Hunter, Jones, King, Mason, Morton, Pratt, Rusk, Sebastian, Smith, Soule, Spruance, Turney, Underwood, Walea, and Walker—28.

NAYS—Messrs. Badger, Baldwin, Bradbury, Bright, Chase,

Clarke, Cooper, Davis, of Massachusetts, Davis, of Missis-sippi, Dayton, Dickinson, Dodge of Wisconsin, Felch, Greene, Hamlin, Poarce, Shields, Sturgeon, Upham, Whitcomb. Winthrop, and Yulee—22.

WEDNESDAY, August 28, 1850. The following resolution, submitted by Mr. Davis, of Massachusetts, on the 13th instant, was taken up for consid-

Resolved. That the Postmaster General be instructed to communicate to the Senate such information as he possesses in regard to the several lines of ocean steamers in the mail ser-vice of the United States, in the following particulars: First. Has each line fulfilled the contract entered into with

Second. How many ships are in the service in each line, and ow many does each contract require?
Third. How much money has been paid to each line, under-

Fourth. What is the aggregate of postage which has been derived to the Government from each line, and what is the annual amount realized from each?

Fitth. Have the mails been regularly and safely transported and delivered, according to the requirements of the law and the instructions of the Department?

Mr. DAVIS, of Massachusetts. I think the information which is asked for in this resolution is very desirable to the Senate, and indeed is necessary to enable them to act with intelligence upon subjects which must necessarily be presented to them when the appropriation bill comes up. The Senstor from New York, I believe, does not object to this view of the ubject. He concurs with me in it, but he thinks that this information will be furnished to the Senate from other sources. If that be so, I shall be satisfied, if it only comes to us in a form to enable us to see it and clarly to understand it. The Senator from New York, I believe, expects that this informa-tion will come in some manner through the Post Office Committee. If, however, the information is prepared for other purposes, it will be very little trouble to furnish it directly to the Senate, and I am inclined to think that it is best that it should mittee. If, however, the information is prepared for other purposes, it will be very little trouble to furnish it directly to the Senate, and I am inclined to think that it is best that it should come before us in that form. The information adverted to by the Senator from New York does not embrace one of the lines. My desire is to embrace all the lines, and that the Senate may know whether the contracts have been executed, how many ships have been put upon each line, the annual expenditure, and the smooth of the public lands our friends may seem disposed to give away the public lands our friends may seem disposed to give away the public lands our friends may have participated in any and all of our wars, great and small, since the beginning of our Government, they ought not to be willing, in the present state of the exchequer and in the present prospect of the country, to create this immense national debt. I hope the Senate will not concur in many ships have been put upon each line, the annual ex-penditure, and the amount of money which has been paid up

penditure, and the amount of money which has been paid up to this time. If I can obtain that information, it is all I care for.

Mr. DICKINSON. I know of no earthly objection to the information being obtained, unless we have it already, as I suppose we have, and therefore I called the attention of the Senator from Massachusetts to it. The only suggestion I made in regard to this resolution, when it was offered, was the usual one, that it lie one day under the rule, in the belief that we had substantially all that it asked for before us and before a committee under examination. The resolution have

adopted.

The resolution was adopted.

SLAVE TRADE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. Mr. CLAY. Before proceeding to the orders of the day, desire the Senate to take up the bill to suppress the slave trade in the District of Columbia, for the purpose of fixing

an early day for its consideration.

The motion was agreed to, and the till was taken up.

Mr. CLAY. The bill being before the Senate, I wish to propose such a day as will be most agreeable to the Senate. I we that it be made the special order for Monday next, at

Mr. FOOTE. I am in favor of that motion, but I hold in my hand an amendment which I desire to present, in order that it may be printed. ast it may be printed.

The amendment was ordered to be printed.

Mr. PEARCE. I also have an amendment which I desire

submit to the Senate for the same purpose.

The amendment was received informally, and ordered to

be printed.
Mr. ATCHISON. Mr. President, by way of a test vote in relation to this bill, I move to lay it upon the table, and on that motion I call for the yeas and nays.

The year and nays were ordered, and being taken were : The yeas and nays were ordered, and being taken were:
YEAS—Messrs. Atchison, Barnwell, Berrien, Butler,
Davis, of Mississippi, Dawson, Downs, Houston, Hunter,
Mason, Pratt, Rusk, Sebastian, Soule, Turney, and Yulee—16.
NAYS—Messrs. Badger, Baldwin, Bell, Benton, Bradbury,
Bright, Cass, Chose, Clarke, Clay, Cooper, Davis, of Massschusetts, Dayton, Dickinson, Dodge, of Wisconsin, Dodge, of
Iows, Douglas, Ewing, Felch, Foote, Greene, Hamlin, Jones,
King, Mangum, Pearce, Phelps, Shields, Smith, Spruance,
Sturgeon, Underwood, Upham, Wales, Winthrop, and Whitcomb—36.

So the bill was not laid upon the table, and it was made the special order for Monday next, at 12 o'clock.

BOUNTY LAND BILL. Mr. SHIELDS. I move to postpone the prior special orders for the purpose of taking up the bill "granting bounty land to certain officers and soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States." It is a bounty land bill which the House has passed in a liberal spirit, but which has heretofore been kept back in the Senate for the purwhich has heretofore been kept back in the Senate for the purpose of allowing other important measures to pass. I hope
it will be received in the same spirit which actuated the
House, and that it will be considered and disposed of.

Mr. SHIELDS. The Committee on the Public Lands
have reported several amendments, in which they ask the concurrence of the Senate.

currence of the Senate.

The first amendment was then read, being to strike out the word "who," in the first section, and insert in lieu thereof the words, "whose name has been returned on muster rolls, or in any other official manner to the War Department, as having," so that the section will read :

locate the seat of government here, yet I think we may pass this bill.

Mr. MASON. One word more. If this had been a gift on the part of Virginia, or a grant by which they parted with their right, I trust the character of Virginia in this confederacy would show that she would not either claim it herself or suffer her assignees to do it. But, as it was an advance or a loan, by which the right was not parted with, but subject to reclamation, there certainly is no impropriety in Virginia disposing of the fund in any manner she may deem proper.

Now, as I said, in the original proposition to advance the money only, and upon its passage, the title was altered and conformed with the text. The title, which was to make "a grant" of money, was altered to "an advance," and the enacting clause showed that it was an advance.

But I will state further to the Senate, what escaped my attention at the moment, that, prior to that, in 1783, the General Assembly of Virginia made a proposition to Congress to locate the seat of government at Williamsburg, then the seat

The amendment was agreed to.

The second amendment is to insert the word "surviving," which we have placed between brackets, before the words "commissioned officers who were engaged in the military service," was also agreed to.

The third amendment was to insert the words in italics, and

to strike out the words between brackets, in the second sec-

buildings in Williamsburg, provided they would locate the seat of government there. The terms of the proposition were these:

"That if the honorable Congress should esteem the city of Williamsburg, in this State, a fit place for their session, the Assembly will present them, on their removal thereto, and during their continuance therein, with the palace, the capitol, and all public buildings, and 300 acres of land adjoining the said city, together with a sum of money not exceeding one hundred thousand pounds, (£100,000,) this State's currency."

Subsequently, in order to induce them to locate the seat of government, not within the limits of Virginia, but on the Potomac river, the proposition was that they would advance to the General Government the sum of \$120,000. Now, it appears from the report made by the committee that that sum was all advanced. It was paid over to the treasury in sums of \$40,000 a year; and it appears that Gen. Washington, who was not only a citizen of Virginia, and conversant with this subject, but had the superintendence of the business, saks, in a letter "to the commissioners of the federal district," dated August 29th, 1793, "In what manner would it be proper to state the account with the States of Virginia and Maryland, they having advanced money which has not been all expended for the objects for which it was appropriated?" And it does appear that the sum of \$40,999, part of this \$120,000, was all that was used by the Commissioners of Public Buildings. I submit to the Senate, therefore, that it was substantiages.

The fourth mended by the commissioners of Public Buildings. I submit to the Senate, therefore, that it was substantial to the Se

The amendments were agreed to.
The fourth amendment was to insert after the words "issue

The fourth amendment was to insert after the words "issue of," in the third section, the words "the patent or certificate of entry on," so that the section would read:

"Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That all sales, mortgages, letters of attorney, or other instruments of writing, going to affect the title or claim to any warrant or certificate hereinbefore provided for, made or executed prior to the issue of the patent or certificate of entry on such warrant or certificate, shall be null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever; nor shall such certificate or warrant, or the land obtained thereby, be in anywise affected by, or charged with, or subject to the payment of any debt or claim incurred by such officer or soldier prior to the issuing of the patent: Provided, That the benefits of this act shall not accrue to any person who is a member of the present Congress."

Mr. DOWNS. I would suggest that this amendment will

Mr. DOWNS. I would suggest that this amendment will be of very little effect, because if you allow the transfer to be made at any stage of the proceeding before the title to the land is absolutely vested in the grantee, speculators can always evade it. I would suggest that the words "or certificate of

not on the individual, and in some instances it is kept back for five or six years. I have no objection to the rejection of the smendment, except that it would produce a great deal of inconvenience in cases where the officer was not able to issue the patent when the individual entering the land calls for it.

The amendment was agreed to. The fifth amendment was then read, being to insert at the end of the bill the following proviso:

end of the bill the following proviso:

"Provided further, That every person who may be entitled, under the provisions of this act, to receive a certificate or warrant for bounty land, shall be allowed the ontion to receive such certificate or warrant, or a Treasury scrip for \$100 where the quantity of land is 160 acres, \$50 where the quantity is 80 acres, and \$25 where the quantity is 40 acres; said scrip to bear an interest of 6 per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, and redeemable at the pleasure of the Government."

Mr. BADGER. I hope the Senate will not concur in that smendment. The body of the bill proposes to dispose of, I know not how much, and nobody can foresee, of the public lands; and then this provision is to enable the persons who may be entitled, numerous as they undoubtedly are, to the benefit of the previous part of the law, to demand a sum of money in lieu thereof, and thus create an enormous public

mr. SHIELDS. I would state to the Senator from North Mr. DICKINSON. I know of no earthly objection to the information being obtained, unless we have it already, as I suppose we have, and therefore I called the attention of the Senator from Massachusetts to it. The only suggestion it made in regard to this resolution, when it was offered, was the usual one, that it lie one day under the rule, in the belief that we had substantially all that it saked for before us and before a committee under examination. The resolution have had substantially all that it saked for before us and before a committee under examination. The resolution has been deared to the large that the properties of the subject to its adoption, if the mover desires it. The information the Postmaster General communicated to the House, in answer to a resolution, in March last, at Ithin, covers the whole subject, so far as regards the Chagres, Particle, and other lines in that direction. It is a document for you with considerable labor, and embodies much of detailed information; and, as that offere informs and, contains all the knowledge to has upon the subject. The resolution of the Knowledge to has upon the subject. The resolution of the Knowledge to has upon the subject. The resolution of the Knowledge to has upon the subject. The resolution of the Knowledge to have upon the subject. The resolution of the Knowledge to have upon the subject. The resolution of the Knowledge to have upon the subject. The resolution of the Knowledge to have upon the subject that the Departments know upon the king, though it comes within the wope of the inquiry before the Post Office of the Committee on the Post Office and Post in the American of the Committee on the Post Office and Post in the American of the Committee of the Committee on the Post Office of the Committee of the Committee on the Post Office of the Committee of the Committee of t Carolina that the sum of money is very inconsiderable when compared with the amount of land, and that the man who lieve it to be the true policy of this Government to convert its public domain into private property, convinced that it is for the interest of the General Government, and the States and Territories in which these lands lie. I would not vote for this compensation if the proposition was an independent one, and I will not vote for this bill it it is included in it. I have

two reasons now for supporting the bill; one is, that perhaps there is something due to the soldiers of the war of 1812, two reasons now for supporting the bill; one is, that it is the there is something due to the soldiers of the war of 1812, and the various Indian wars; and the other is, that it is the policy of our Government to get rid of the public lands upon almost any terms. It cannot, however, be contended that it is the policy of our Government to contract an enormous debt, or to get rid of the money we may have in the treations, therefore, that the Senate will not concur in sury. I trust, therefore, that the Senate will not concur in he amendment which has been proposed.

Mr. SHIELDS. I have stated that this matter was fully discussed in committee, and in that discussion I took somewhat the view which gentlemen in opposition to this amendment have. In my opinion, experience has shown that the scrip is always more valuable than the right to draw money out of the treasury; that is, the man can always sell his print for much more money than he is allowed to draw from

not able to dispose of his warrant at all; he could only receive a patent for it, and then dispose of that patent the same as

y other person could. Under the provisions of the bill in reference to the Mexican war, the case was different. The soldier was authorized to sell his warrant or to receive his money at the rate of one-half the minimum price of the public lands to which he was entithe minimum price of the public lands to which he was enti-tled. Under the provisions of this bill, without this amend-ment, the soldier is not enabled to sell his warrant at all. He can only dispose of the land after he has received it, the same as any person who has received a patent. The object was to prevent the soldier from selling his warrant previous to his application for a patent. And as a further inducement for him not to do so, this amendment proposes to allow him to draw from the treasury a sum of money equal to one-half of the minimum treasury a sum of money equal to one-half of the minimum price of the land to which he is entitled, and in that way to enable him to convert his claim more readily into money. It seems to be supposed that this will be a mere gift of money from the treasury, and not a compensation or donation made in land. But that is not the view which I take of it. The in land. But that is not the view which I take of it. The land given away by this bill will reduce precisely that amount the quantity of land which the General Government will sell, and consequently will reduce the amount of money received from that source into the treasury.

The history of our land sales, particularly since the grant of Mexican bounty lands, shows that just in proportion as the lands are entered under warrants of this description, just in that proportion is there a diminution in the receipts into the Treasury from the sales of those lands. The lands proposed to be granted by this bill will probably amount to two and a

to be granted by this bill will probably amount to two and a half millions of acres, which amount is to be cut off from the sales of public lands, and of course will diminish the receipts of the treasury to that extent. What will be the operation of this on the fiscal affairs of the Government? If the whole amount of this land should be entered the next year the Government. amount of this land should be entered the next year the Government could not make any sales, for the whole amount in mcrket would be covered by these entries. But suppose this amendment be adopted? The amount allowed in it in lieu of the land is one-half the present minimum price, and the consequence would be that we should pay out of the Treasury only one half the sum which we would pay if all the entries of land were made. That is precisely the operation of the amendment. Without it we should pay to the soldier the whole of the minimum price of the lands entered, or the receipts into the Treasury would be diminished to that extent, and with it, whenever the money was taken in preference to the land, we should pay only one-half the minimum price, and the receipts into the Treasury be increased to that price, and the receipts into the Tressury be incressed to that extent. I have, however, no tenacity for the amendment, and extent. I have, however, no tenacity for the amendment, and I have merely presented the considerations which induce me to favor it. If they meet with the favor of the Senate they will perhaps adopt the amendment; if they do not, they will, of

ourse, reject it.
Mr. BADGER. The hour of one has now nearly arrived, nd it must be obvious to the honorable Senator from Illinois that we cannot pass this bill this morning. In pursuance of the suggestion he made, I therefore move that the further con-

ideration of the bill be postponed till te-morrow.

The further consideration of the subject was then postponed

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1850.

Mr. HUNTER, from the Committee on Finance, to which was referred House bill making appropriation for the support of the Military Academy for the year ending the 30th June, 1851, reported back the same with amendments, which pro-pose to strike out that part of the bill in which the salaries of he professors of the academy are fixed at fifteen hundred dol-

lars, and, with the exception of the professors of French and Drawing, to make them two thousand dollars.

He expressed the hope that it would be the pleasure of the Senate to take up the bill and pass it at once. By unanimous consent the bill was then taken up and considered as in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. HUNTER. I will explain, in a moment or two, the object of the amendments. There is in fact but one amendment, the others being mere alterations which follow, as a matter of course, if the other is adopted. The only respect in which the bill thus amended differs from the bill as it passed the House is in regard to the amount fixed for the professors' salaries. evade it. I would suggest that the words "or certificate of entry" be stricken out, so as to prevent any transfer.

Mr. SHIELDS. This matter was fully considered in committee, and the only restrictions thought reasonable were such as would prevent any disposition of the scrip until the land became the property of the individual. When the man enters the land and gets his certificate the land is absolutely his sent the interpretation of subsistence, and an allowance for servants. The House, in lieu of the salary which these professors enjoyed from these items, have stricken off so much as was derived from the commutation for forage for two horses. The Committee on Finance recommend that, instead of this diminution, a salary of \$2,000 shall be allowed to each of them, with the exception of the professors of drawing and French, whose salaries they propose shall remain as fixed by the House, at \$1,500. They have increased it to a sum certain, which they think is preferable to allowing it to be paid in the former mode; because one of the objections made in the House was in relation to the item of forage for three horses, House was in relation to the item of forage for three norses, as a part of the salary which the professors received. The Committee on Finance believed that competent men to discharge these duties could not be procured for less than \$2,000, which is about the amount they now receive in the shape of these allowances; and they have therefore proposed that the professors of mathematics, philosophy, engineering, ethics, and chemistry be allowed \$2,000 each, in exchange for all these allowances, with the exception of the longevity ration, which is one more of honor than of profit, and is particularly

valued by military men.

If it be the pleasure of the Senate to keep the salaries at what they were, or about what they were, there can be no objection to this amendment, and the change in the sums is simply the result of the establishment of that principle. I ask simply the result of the establishment of this principle. I ask the question, therefore, first gu this amendment; for, if adopt-ed by the Senate, the others will follow as a matter of course,

harmonize the residue of the bill with it.
Mr. BRADBURY. I do not know that I perfectly un-Mr. BRADBURY. I do not know that I perfectly understood the remarks of the Senator from Virginia; but if I did understand them, the adoption of this amendment will increase the salaries which the professors referred to in the bill have heretofore enjoyed. The House have made a reduction of them, and, instead of bringing them back to the precise situation in which they formerly stood, the Senator from Virginia proposes an amendment which will increase their emoluments. Now, I take this to be the worst possible time to engage in increasing the salaries of public officers, for we know that the drain on the treasury is enormous. I hope the Senate will concur in whatever alteration the House has seen fit to make. I will venture to say that if we reject the amendment and adopt the bill as it passed the House, not a single

services in the first universities and academies in the land. I believe the amount is not so high as is paid in the University of New York; and certainly it is not so high as is paid in the University of South Carolina or of Virginia, with which I am more particularly acquainted; and yet we know that these professors not only are, but they ought to be men of the highest grade of talent. I do not believe that we can secure new men for these duties, who are equal to them in point of new men for these duties, who are equal to them in point of scientific attainments, at the sum proposed to be given them in the bill as it came from the House. It is a very small matter; and the poorest of all economy, I think, is that which consists in a reduction of the salaries of professors in our institutions of learning. Why, the difference in qualifications which might be secured by a difference of a thousand or fifteen hundred dollars in salaries, might be worth to us hundreds of thousands. Indeed, it is impossible to estimate in money what we may gain or lose by this or that plan or grade of instruction. No doubt we shall get men to serve if the salaries are put down as low as \$500, but the question is whether we shall get competent men, or men as competent as scrip is always more valuable than the right to draw money out of the treasury; that is, the man can always sell his scrip for much more money than he is allowed to draw from the treasury. But if there is any considerable objection to

the bill, on the account of this amendment, I, for one, shall not havard its success by insisting on its being inserted. I do not wish to cause any demand on the treasury; but I believe for that these soldiers, who, my friend from Missouri says, perhaps are entitled to something, are really entitled to a great deal; and that, at all events, we ought to give them a little sum of the sum comes in the same class of professors being the sum in gross, so that there should be no reason for supposing they were receiving by indirect means, a higher salary than was intended, and I do not believe the salary which they possing they were receiving by indirect means, a higher salary than was intended, and I do not believe the salary which they professor should have been attacked, if if had not been for the fact that a part of the sum comes in the shape of community to it before the vote is taken. I have no particular tenseity to it before the vote is taken. I have no particular tenseity to it before the vote is taken. I have no particular tenseity to it before the vote is taken. I have no particular tenseity amendment which may not meet the approbation of the Senate of salaries, and the same dwith the idea of striking at what seemed to be and to for the same and with the idea of striking at what seemed to be and to the same and with the idea of striking at what seemed to be and to the same and with the idea of striking at what seemed to be and to the same and with the idea of striking at what seemed to be and to the same and the bill by insisting upon any amendment which may not meet the approbation of the Senate. It is, of it is the same and with the idea of striking at what seemed to be and to the same and with the idea of striking at what seemed to be and to for the same and the bill by insisting upon any amendment which may not meet the approbation of the Senate of the fact in this proposition to which I wish to call the attention of the Senate of the sum of the same of th

Mr. DICKINSON. I fully concur with my colleague upon the Committee of Finance, (Mr. Huwren,) who acts as cheirman of that committee, in what he has said with regard to this bill. My experience has tanght me that the cavils which are raised against the increase of the salaries of clerks and public officers are most frequent with regard to small amounts, such as the trifling increase of from seven or eight hundred to a thousand dollars. In such cases a great deal is said about economy, and that persons can be procured for a less sum. Sir, in such matters it is not more poetical than true, that "fools rush in where angels fear to tread." You can supply the public service with incompetent men for a salary of a few hundred dollars; but will it be wise to resort to such mistaken economy? I too am an economist, but I am not willing to economise to the destruction of efficiency. We have many large appropriations—some of them amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Such appropristions possess a high degree of interest, and in them the extravagance of the Government is most conspicuous. To them I would willing to economise to the destruction of efficiency. We have many large appropriations—some of them amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Such appropriations possess a high degree of interest, and in them the extravagance of the Government is most conspicuous. To them I would apply a rigid economy. I favor directness and simplicity in the payment of salaries. I am in favor of an amendment which will show how much our officers receive. I am not willing to continue the system of paying through rations and commutations. Let the Senate, and the country, and the officers themselves, know how many dollars and cents are assigned to each. I do not think these salaries too high; the Government must have its employés, but let it have no more than are necessary, and let them be competent men and fairly paid.

Mr. BRADBURY. I am perfectly aware that any sug Mr. BRADBURY. I am perfectly aware that any suggestion which tends to economy, or any effort that may be made to keep either the salaries of officers or the expenses of the Government down to the point at which they have been kept, will be perfectly unavailing; but still I intend to call the attention of the Senate to the tendency to extravagance in things great and small, and I mean to repeat the effort, whether availing or unavailing. This is said to be a small affair; but here we find—without any complaint on the part of the officers, that I have heard; without any allegation of necessity for the increase of these salaries, and when the House the officers, that I have heard; without any allegation of necessity for the increase of these salaries, and when the House has sought to economise—a proposition to increase the salaries of the officers of this institution to an amount of some eight or ten per cent. We all know that the expense of supporting their families is less there than in most large cities, and that the services of men of first-rate capacity can be obtained for the salaries that these gentlemen have heretofore But we are told that \$2,000 per annum is necessary in o

But we are told that \$2,000 per annum is necessary in order to procure the services of some little tutor, to teach French or some other language, which competent gentlemen can be found to do for smaller salaries. If the committee had proposed, when they changed the mode of payment from commutations to a direct sum, to keep these salaries where they have been, I might not have objected to it, because we should not be increasing the amount. But here is a preposition to increase the sum, which is in perfect keeping with every appropriation bill which we have had before us. The constant tendency is to enlarge the expenditures of the Government. We are constantly called upon to raise the compensation of employés in appropriation bills; and we have this startling fact before us. That while in 1830 the expenses of the Government were about \$14,000,000, being about, or a the Government were about \$14,000,000, being about, or a little more than one dollar for each inhabitant, the appro pristions asked for at the present session amount to \$45,000,000, being more than double the sum to be paid by each inhabitant in 1830. And yet the appropriations will fall each inhabitant in 1830. And yet the appropriations will fall short of the estimates. If we do not begin somewhere, it is useless to attempt to keep the expenses of this Government within any reasonable limits. We know that we have State Governments whose proper province it is to discharge most of the ordinary duties of government; but, notwithstanding that, we have in this collateral Government, instituted for a few specific objects, the expenses going on and increasing at such a rate that it seems to me it is at least worth while to call attention to the matter, in order to see that we do not enter into any unnecessary increase of expenditures. I concur with the Senator from New York that it is upon large expenditures that we should chiefly place our attention. But I do not choose, whatever others may do, to go on voluntarily ncreasing our expenses in smaller matters; I wish, at any

rate, to keep withis our present limits, if we can.

Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi. I think the Senator from

Maine has made a very good speech, if he had appended it
to something to which it had a useful application; but I to something to which it had a useful application; but I is think it is out of place here, because the whole increase of expenses proposed is only something over \$700. It is a diminution of the salary of one of the professors, his salary having been accidentally higher than that of the professor of the senior chair of the academy. The object is to put all the salaries of the principal professors upon the same scale. The Senator from Maine has not inquired, I am sure, or be would not have given the reasons which he has offered against the passage of this amendment. He seems to suppose that be can obtain competent men to fill these chairs any where, and for a less sum of money. His remarks remind me of a saying of William Cobbett. He said he could obtain an able bodied man to perform the duties of king for fifty pounds a year. I have no doubt he can get able-bodied men to take these chairs for such salaries as he supposes; but I think he is mistaken if he supposes he can get competent men to do it who will not require a salary as high as it is proposed to give. The instruction at this institution is peculiar. In mathematics it is more extensive and thorough than elsewhere; and the science of war and of military engineering is taught in no the science of war and of military engineering is taught in no the science of war and of military engineering is taught in no the science of war and of military engineering is taught in no the science of war and of military engineering is taught in no the science of war and of military engineering is taught in no the science of war and of military engineering is taught in no the science, and of the best capacity, who are selected for promotion in the army and all prospects of professors, they surrender the rubble councils of this country. As I am at present advised, I should be entirely indisposed to allow it to be commuted to a charge upon the public Treasury. I see no reason, therefore, why, in order to avoid the difficulties which I have suggested in relation to a portion of sional distinction. It is only those of the highest attainments in science, and of the best capacity, who are selected for these duties. The Senator from Maine was never more mistaken than in the supposition that the salaries are higher than those given to men of similar occupation and standing in other institutions of the country. They are below what is received in many institutions—greatly below that which they could elsewhere obtain; but the professors have a pride in the progress and success of the institution, some of them having been connected with it more than twenty years. Having grown up with the institution, they feel that attachment which binds them to it, and is superior to pecuniary tempt tation, but it may not be to depreciation and neglect by the country whom they have so long and so advantageously served.

Again, the Senator from Maine is mistaken in suppo Again, the Senator from Maine is mistaken in supposing there has been no complaint on the part of the professors, and that the position is favorable to low salaries. The place is one where the living is expensive, and, as they have to entertain much company, their salaries barely support them. There are many places where they could be supported for much less, and where they could obtain higher salaries. The institution has borne good fruit, and I think it is a poor economy to strike at the source of the army's pleasant agents at the source of the army's pleasant agents at the source of the army's pleasant agents. and where they could obtain higher-earliers. The institution has borne good fruit, and I think it is a poor economy to has borne good fruit, and I think it is a poor economy to have been good fruit, and I think it is a poor economy to have been good fruit, and I think it is a poor economy to have been good fruit, and I think it is a poor economy to have been good fruit, and I think it is a poor economy to have been good fruit, and I think it is a poor economy to have been good fruit, and I think it is a poor economy to have been good fruit, and I think it is a poor economy to have coursed to have good fruit, and I think it is a poor economy to have any have good fruit, and I think it is a poor economy to have any handle to lay hold upon in connection up and istinctly and fairly before the country, so that do the good fruit, and it is that the salaries have been paid. It is to place the amount with the compensation made to the professors. It is that the salaries may be fixed, so that every man may know what is received. The standard fixed upon is below that of the colleges generally in the country. If these men are, as I think they are, entitled to the gratitude of the country for all think they are, entitled to the gratitude of the country for all think they are, entitled to the gratitude of the country for all think they are, entitled to the gratitude of the country for all they have bestowed upon it, both in peace and war, if they are the proposition to raise the salaries benefits to be cavilling at the proposition to raise the salaries benefits to be cavilling at the proposition to raise the salaries objections have occurred. I should have expected every Sensitive for the proposition, seeing it is bull little more than to change the mode of compensation by firing the amount to be cavilling at the proposition to raise the salaries objections have occurred. I should have expected every Sensitive to the favor the proposition to raise the salaries of the salaries of the proposition to raise the salaries of the s

The question was then taken on the adoption of the ame

ment, and it was agreed to.

Mr. HUNTER. I hope the question will be taken on the remaining amendments altogether, as they follow as a matter of course from the adoption of the last amendment. They are merely verbal, so as to make the several parts of the bill.

ments proposed by Mr. HUNTER, and they were agreed to.

The bill was then reported to the Sennte; the severall amendments made as in Committee of the Whole were concurred in, and ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read

BOUNTY LAND BILL. Mr. SHIELDS. I move to postpone the consideration of the prior special orders, that the Senate may proceed to the consideration of the bill "granting bounty land to certain officers and soldiders who have been engaged in the military service of the United States." The motion was agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT. The bill is before the Senate as in Committee of the Whole. The question pending is on the proviso, which it is proposed to insert at the end of the bill, and which will be read.

The proviso was read, as printed in a preceding column of this paper, making it optional with the person entitled to bounty land to receive a warrant for the same or scrip-bearing 6 percent. interest, at the rate \$100 scrip for every 160 acres of land.

Mr. MASON. As this bill now stands it requires substantially that all those officers and soldiers who may be entistled to land warrants should themselves locate the warrant-which they receive under it—that they should take out a patent for the land. And it restricts it, too, to those officers and soldiers as a personal benefit; that is to say, they are proand soldiers as a personal benefit; that is to say, they are pro-

hibited from making any assignment of the warrants aft patents have been obtained. patents have been obtained.

Now, under the provisions of this bill, although it is certainly proper and right to a certain extent to exempt as far as practicable the class to whom this bounty is given from the depredations that are always practised upon them by speculators, yet I am very confident that, as it stands, those officers and soldiers who reside in the Southern States, including the Sta'e of Virginia, who may be entitled to the benefits of this act, will really derive no practical benefit from it.

The PRESIDENT. The question is on the provise proposed to be added at the end of the bill. It is one of the amendments recommended by the committee.

amendments recommended by the committee.

Mr. MASON. I am perfectly aware of that; and if the

Mr. MASON. I am perfectly aware of that; and if the President will wait a moment he will see that my remarks are strictly pertinent to the view which I shall presently take of that proviso. As this bill stands, I proceed to remark that those of the State of Virginia and other States lying south of it who are to be entitled to patents under this bill, will really never receive any particular benefits from them, because they never can go into the Western country, either in person or by agent or attorney, for the purpose of locating one hundred and sixty, eighty, or forty acres of land; and, although it may be desirable to leave the bill asit stands, prohibiting trading in or transfer of these warrants before the patent is obtained, yet it appears to me that to a large class it would really result in no particular benefit.

really result in no particular benefit.

Now, as to the provise, I think that the object which it proposes may be accomplished by modifying it in the way, that I shall propose. The bill proposes to make a gratuity—a pure gratuity—out of the public domain, as a recognition of Senate.

The amendment was read as follows :

Senate.

The amendment was read as follows:

"To be issued by the Secretary of the Interior at the rate of \$1.25 per acre, for each acre to which such person may be entitled, which scrip shall be receivable in payment for any lands subject to sale at private daty."

Mr. SHIELDS. Mr. President, the objections which were urged by the Senator from Virginia and others yesterday have, I think, very great force in them. On consideration, I, for one, as a member of the committee, believe that it is very imprudent to insist upon this proviso. It would not only endanger and hazard the bill, which I am very anxious should pass, but I think it is going a little too far, as suggested by the gentleman from Virginia, to throw this burden upon the Treasury in any event. I am willing that we should surrender the whole proviso; I will not insist upon it. But it is a great object to prevent this scrip from floating about in the community as a species of speculating circulation. The amendment of the gentleman from Virginia would have the effect of throwing into market a very large amount of land scrip, which would be assignable, of course, ad libitum, and would be likely to circulate over the country and fall into the hands of speculators. This is the great objection that we Western men have to it. This is a general measure. It applies to the whole country. We of the West are not specially interested in it, for it will prevent land from being settled. This is as beneficial to New England as it is to Illinois, so far as that is concerned. But I see a strong, I see a very powerful objection to throwing this scrip into market for the purpose of speculation. I hope, then, that the Senator from Virginia will withdraw his amendment, and let this provise be voted down, as I am willing it should be.

Mr. MASON. Mr. President, I have no disposition in the world to embarrass the bill by the amendment which I have offered. As I have said, my views at present are favorable to the bill. The object of this bill, upon its face, is to give this